

MATTHEWS VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 1, 2017

Minutes

Chairperson Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Fisk asked for a moment of silence to remember those people in New York who were attacked by a terrorist and others in need.

Committee Members present: Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Terry Price, Gregg Smith, Jack Santaniello, Angelo Renguso, Amanda Kohout, Larry Stawicki, Kathleen Wilsbach, Fred Baylor, Dessi Dufresne, Ilse York, Victoria Green, Neil Broome and Michael Vento.

Guests welcomed: Elizabeth Corterville, Peter McMurtrie, Charleen Thompson and Rad Pate, ToM Liaison.

Minutes of October 4, 2017. After a correction to 3. Open Comments, a. **breakfast** should read **lunch**, the minutes were approved.

Old Business:

1. Subcommittee 1.

a. Subcommittee chair, Tom Cannon, presented two versions of an embossed business card-sized elevator speech to members present. The elevator speech is to help explain the mission of MVAC and will be given to the Mayor and the ToM Board of Commissioners as an aide in explaining the MVAC. More are available.

b. Angelo Renguso presented a sample of the MVAC trifold. Angelo still needs local veteran supporters to include businesses and organizations. Larry Stawicki suggested that the service seals be assembled by date instituted by the U. S. government.

2. Subcommittee 2. No report.

3. Subcommittee 3.

a. Dessi reported that she has a subcommittee meeting scheduled for November 14th at the Black Chicken.

b. Ilse York reported the following on WWII and Korean Honor Flights and application process.

(1) 160 local veterans went on the Honor Flights to Washington, DC in October, 2017.

(2) The next Honor Flight is scheduled for May 26, 2018. The cut-off date for applying is April 1st. There is no cost for the veteran, but to accompany a veteran the cost is \$400 and the person must be physically fit. To sponsor a vet the cost is \$500.

(3) The point of contact for Queen City Honor Flights is Nico Ianelli. Applications can be found at www.qchonorflight.org. The application is seven pages long. Donations can be made at www.qchonorflight.org/donate.html.

4. Subcommittee 4. Neil Broome reported that the national home of Gold Star Mothers is in Washington, DC and on the website. Gold Star Mothers are those mothers that lost a son or daughter serving on active duty. There are local chapters.

5. Fisk reminded the committee that MVAC serves in an advisory capacity for the ToM. MVAC provides a path to get to other organizations like: Charlotte Bridge Home (renamed Veterans Bridge Home), Veterans Service Organizations, Mecklenburg Veterans Council and 40 other organizations. Fisk recently was able to provide a veteran with needed information.

6. Refreshment of subcommittees. Fisk presented renamed MVAC subcommittees in compliance with MVAC Bylaws (February 2017) as follows: SC #1. AWARENESS; SC #2. RESOURCES/COLLABORATION; SC #3. COMMUNICATIONS; and SC #4. ADMINISTRATIVE (EXECUTIVE). The executive board left the meeting room so that members could decide what subcommittee they wanted to be on and to select a chairman for each renamed subcommittee. The outcome was as follows:

a. SC#1. Chairperson, Gregg Smith. Fred Baylor and Amanda Kohout.

b. SC#2. Chairperson, Larry Stawicki. Michael Vento, Victoria Green and Neil Broom.

c. SC#3. Chairperson, Dessi Dufresne. Angelo Renguso, Ilse York, Janet Perkins, Tom Cannon and Jack Santaniello.

(1) Tom said changes can be made to the above and that changes to the Bylaws can also be made. In limited cases MVAC can hold an event. The executive committee will be available to help subcommittees.

(2) Larry suggested asking those not present a choice on what subcommittee they wish to serve.

(3) Fisk gave all a handout of subcommittee responsibilities and said the refreshed subcommittee guidelines and assignments will commence immediately.

(4) Jack asked that each subcommittee chairperson submit a projected budget by March.

7. Membership. Ten committee member's terms on MVAC are expiring on December 31, 2017 with the ToM. Kathleen Wilsbach and Terry Price have chosen not to request renewal of an additional two-year term.

8. MVAC Exhibit of Vietnam/Korean Wars.

a. Fisk advised committee that he and Tom are working with Town Manager, Hazen Blodgett, to have the exhibit in Town Hall. The schedule for the exhibit is 10 am – 4 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday – May 25-27th and 10 am – 1 pm on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th. Because Town Hall is not open on weekends, Rad Pate volunteered to open Town Hall on those days. Final approval pending. Fisk said this is a better centrally located place to have the exhibit to reach a larger audience.

9. Matthews Alive. Fisk's initial information about the annual Matthews Labor Day weekend event is that there is a table cost for a 10' x 10' space of \$1850.00. Fisk is going to contact organizer Lee Ann Moore about a partnership and cost reduction for MVAC. If MVAC wants to participate in the parade, there is no charge. Dessi mentioned that Rob Jacik, owner of Seaboard Taproom in Matthews, may be willing for MVAC to have a complimentary table in front of his establishment.

New Business:

1. Treasurer Jack Santaniello reported that expenses through October 4, 2017 were \$744.68 with a remaining balance of \$2,458.22.
2. Dessi announced a Veteran's luncheon on Monday, November 13th at the Levine Senior Center sponsored by the Matthews Rotary Club.
3. Fisk announced the Veterans Day ceremony at Stumptown Park in Matthews on Saturday, November 11th. He suggested bringing lawn chairs. Fisk will be the keynote speaker for the event.
4. Larry reminded members and guests that there is a difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day which honors deceased veterans.
5. Gregg Smith reported that the Charlotte Veterans Hall of Fame nominations have been extended to November 30th and up to 25 people can be inducted during this period.
6. Tom Cannon said he has submitted an idea for a MVAC logo.

Open Comments:

1. Various members commented on the local discounts at restaurants in the area on Veterans Day, such as, McCormick & Schmick's, Olive Garden, and Applebee's to name a few. Military ID's are required for free and discounted meals.

2. Dessi requested that Kathleen contact the Military Officers Association of America, the Charlotte-Metrolina Chapter (MOAA) for their permission to include it in the proposed MVAC trifold.

3. Guest, Peter McMurtrie said that Gold Star Mothers organization is very active in Mecklenburg County.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Submitted by:
Kathleen Wilsbach, Secretary